

Constitution of The University of Alabama Student Chapter
Of the American Library Association
Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Ratified April 5, 2023

Preamble

We, the students enrolled in the various programs of The University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies, do hereby establish the constitution for a Student Chapter of the American Library Association.

Article I. Purpose

The purposes of this organization are:

- A. to facilitate and encourage membership and participation in the American Library Association and similar professional organizations
- B. to increase awareness and use of the resources of professional organizations, including conferences, publications, promotional materials and scholarships
- C. to provide for professional contacts within the field of library and information sciences both at The University of Alabama and elsewhere
- D. to promote scholarship, professional ethics and awareness in the library and information science professions
- E. to support and promote the mission and goals of The University of Alabama and the School of Library and Information Studies
- F. to provide for and support local programs and activities which facilitate the exchange of ideas and information about trends, issues and opportunities in the profession.

Article II. Membership

The members of this organization shall be interested individuals who are:

- A. students currently enrolled in the programs of The University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies

Article III. Activities

The chapter may undertake or promote any activities it sees necessary in upholding the purposes of the organization, including:

- A. a general membership/promotional meeting near the beginning of each academic term (Fall, Spring, and Summer) and thereafter as necessary
- B. activities which promote awareness in current issues, information, or events in the field of library and information science. This may include the areas of professional issues and library and information science research
 - a. Tradition events Including: Edible Books; Banned Book Week Events; SLIS Student Chapter Newsletter; Sponsor student attendance to ALA Annual; Games and Gaming Roundtable Events.

All activities of the organization will be open to non-members.

Article IV. Faculty Advisor

A Faculty Advisor shall be appointed by the Director of the School of Library and Information Studies at the beginning of each academic year. The Faculty Advisor shall be approved/confirmed by the executive board with a majority vote. The Faculty Advisor shall be advised by the Executive Board of all matters pertaining to the operation of the organization. The Faculty Advisor shall serve as a member ex-officio of the Executive Board and shall advise the board and the organization as necessary. The Faculty Advisor shall also assist in the communication of the needs of the organization to the faculty, administration and other appropriate officials.

Article V. Officers, Executive Board, and Elections

- A. The officers of this organization shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and a Representative to the Student Advisory Committee/Graduate Student Association/Student Government Association. It shall be the duties of these officers to plan and administer the activities of the organization.
- B. The officers together with the faculty sponsor, as a member ex-officio, will serve as the executive board of the organization.
- C. The officers must be members of, or have applied for membership in, the American Library Association. No officer, with the exception of the Representative to the Student Advisory Committee/GSA/SGA, may be a member of the Student Advisory Committee.
- D. Elections

The President, Vice-President and Secretary- shall be elected by the student body at the beginning of the Fall Term after Student Advisory Committee elections are held. The term of office of the officers shall be until the completion of their studies or for one year. All elections shall be conducted by secret ballot by a polling mechanism designated by the president, or if no president a delegate selected by remaining officers. Balloting will be open for three days. To be elected, a candidate must have the majority of votes cast for that office. If a majority vote is not obtained, a run-off election will be held two school days after general election balloting is closed. The opening of nominations will be announced by the President no later than five days before the elections are held. Persons nominated must be willing to serve in the office to which they have been nominated and meet requirements for that office. Emergency elections for any office must be held within approximately two weeks after the office becomes vacant.

- E. Should the President complete their program of study or resign from office they will be succeeded by the Vice President. A new Vice-President will be chosen by election as soon as possible.
- F. Should any other officer resign, the President together with the faculty advisor shall appoint someone from the membership to serve in that office until the next general membership meeting.

G. Office Descriptions

- a. The President shall act as executive authority on all matters concerning membership, publication, and organization-sponsored projects and activities, preside at meetings of both the organization and the executive board, appoint committee heads, including a program committee head and establish committee responsibilities. The President shall communicate the needs of the organization to the faculty sponsor and to the Director of the School of Library and Information Studies and university administration as well as any other body concerned, announce nominations for coming elections and designate a polling method.
- b. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of President in the latter's absence, assist the President with the duties of office, perform any necessary function designated by the President, act as editor of the organization's official publications and advise the President on all executive matters. The Vice-President shall be responsible for renewing membership to The University of Alabama Student Organization Entity: The Source.
- c. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings of the general membership and the executive board, will manage organizational administration, and maintain a roster of all active and inactive members. In the event that the organization does collect or receive funds the Secretary will carry out duties of Treasurer as well.
- d. The Representative to the Student Advisory Committee/Graduate Student Association/Student Government Association shall, under direction of the President, represent the interests and needs of the organization to the Student Advisory Committee/Graduate Student Association and the University of Alabama Student Government Association. The representative will also be responsible for reporting all significant communications of these organizations to the President and the membership.

Article VI. Committees

- A. Committees shall be appointed as necessary from the membership by the Executive Board. The President shall be responsible for appointing committee heads and responsibilities
- B. There shall be a standing program committee which will be responsible for planning and carrying out programs, seminars, and lectures suitable in fulfilling the purposes of the organization

Article VII. Finances

- A. The Secretary will arrange for the disbursement of funds for appropriate purposes as designated by the President and Faculty Advisor.

Article VIII. Parliamentary Procedure

All questions of parliamentary procedure shall be guided by the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order. (See other document)

Article IX. Amendments

Proposed amendments to this Constitution may be introduced by any member at any meeting and shall be decided by a majority vote of those present at the next meeting of the organization.

Article X. Ratification

Ratification of this constitution shall be ratified by a two-thirds vote of those present in the first general membership meeting.

